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of all Forms of
Racial Discrimination

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
Forty-eighth session
Geneva, 26 February-15 March 1996

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The forty-eighth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 26 February to 15 March 1996. The first meeting of the session will be convened at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 26 February.

2. This document contains the provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Committee, prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure, together with annotations relating thereto.

3. The attention of States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 6, which contain the tentative timetable for consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention.

4. In accordance with rule 64 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of the States parties are invited to be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the representative of the Secretary-General

2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee under rule 14 of the rules of procedure

3. Election of officers

4. Adoption of the agenda

5. Prevention of racial discrimination, including early warning and urgent procedures

6. Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention

7. Consideration of communications under article 14 of the Convention

8. Action by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session:

   (a) Annual report submitted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention

   (b) Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

9. Submission of reports by States parties under article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention

10. Consideration of copies of petitions, copies of reports and other information relating to Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories and to all other territories to which General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) applies, in conformity with article 15 of the Convention

11. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the representative of the Secretary-General

The forty-eighth session of the Committee will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General, who will preside over the meeting until the election of the Chairman of the Committee.

2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee under rule 14 of the rules of procedure

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure, the nine members of the Committee elected or re-elected at the Sixteenth Meeting of the States parties to the Convention, held on 16 January 1996, will make the following solemn declaration:

"I solemnly declare that I will perform my duties and exercise my powers as a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination honourably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously."

3. Election of officers

In accordance with article 10, paragraph 2, of the Convention and rules 15 and 16 of the rules of procedure, the Committee shall elect from among its members a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. The officers of the Committee shall be elected for a term of two years.

Under rule 58 of the rules of procedure, elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Committee decides otherwise in the case of election to fill a place for which there is only one candidate.

4. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 8 of the rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda of any session shall follow the election of officers when required under rule 15. In accordance with rule 9, the Committee may revise the agenda during a session and may, as appropriate, add, defer or delete items.

5. Prevention of racial discrimination, including early warning and urgent procedures

The Committee decided at its forty-fifth session to establish this point as one of its regular and principal agenda items. Within the framework of its efforts to prevent racial discrimination, the Committee may decide to take early warning measures aimed at preventing existing problems from escalating into conflicts; or it may decide to initiate urgent procedures aimed at responding to problems requiring immediate attention to prevent or limit the scale or number of serious violations of the Convention. The Committee may also take action or further action regarding States parties already considered under the item.

6. Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention

The following timetable for consideration of reports submitted by States parties at the forty-eighth session has been drawn up by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman, taking into account the relevant decisions taken by the Committee at its forty-seventh session.

In pursuance of established practice and in conformity with rule 64 of the rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their respective reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee, as follows:

Timetable for consideration of reports of States parties

Tuesday, 27 February	
Zimbabwe	Initial report of Zimbabwe, due in 1992 (CERD/C/217/Add.1)
Wednesday, 28 February	
Zimbabwe	(Continued)
Russian Federation	12th and 13th periodic reports, due in 1992 and 1994 respectively, submitted in one document (CERD/C/263/Add.9)
Thursday, 29 February	
Russian Federation	(Continued)
Colombia	6th and 7th periodic reports, due in 1992 and 1994 respectively, submitted in one document (CERD/C/257/Add.1)
Friday, 1 March	
Colombia	(Continued)
Denmark	10th 11th and 12th periodic reports, due in 1991, 1993 and 1995 respectively, submitted in one document (CERD/C/280/Add.1)
Monday, 4 March	
Denmark	(Continued)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	13th periodic report due in 1994 (CERD/C/263/Add.7)

Tuesday, 5 March

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	(Continued)
Finland	11th and 12th periodic reports, due in 1991 and 1993 respectively, submitted in one document (CERD/C/240/Add.2)

Wednesday, 6 March

Finland	(Continued)
Hungary	11th, 12th and 13th periodic reports, due in 1990, 1992 and 1994 respectively, submitted in one document (CERD/C/263/Add.6)

Thursday, 7 March

Hungary	(Continued)
Spain	13th periodic report, due in 1994 (CERD/C/263/Add.5)

Friday, 8 March

Spain	(Continued)
Venezuela	10th, 11th, 12th and 13th periodic reports, due in 1988, 1990, 1992 and 1994 respectively, submitted in one document (CERD/C/263/Add.8)

Monday, 11 March

Madagascar	9th periodic report (CERD/C/149/Add.19) Considered at the 835th meeting in 1989 (CERD/C/SR.835)
Cambodia	Initial report (CERD/C/111/Add.4) Considered at the 780th and 802nd meetings in 1987 (CERD/C/SR.780 and 802)

Tuesday, 12 March

India	8th and 9th periodic reports, submitted in one document (CERD/C/149/Add.11) and considered at the 796th and 797th meetings in 1987 (CERD/C/SR.796 and 797)
Pakistan	9th periodic report (CERD/C/149/Add.12 and Corr.1) Considered at the 796th and 797th meetings in 1987 (CERD/C/SR.796 and 797)

Tuesday, 12 March

Panama	8th and 9th periodic reports submitted in one document (CERD/C/149/Add.4) Considered at the 790th meeting in 1987 (CERD/C/SR.790)
Nepal	6th, 7th and 8th periodic reports, submitted in one document (CERD/C/148/Add.1) Considered at the 787th meeting in 1987 (CERD/C/SR.787)
Swaziland	3rd periodic report (CERD/C/R.70/Add.18) Considered at the 205th and 921st meetings in 1974 and 1991 respectively (CERD/C/SR.205 and 921)
Guinea	Initial report (CERD/C/15/Add.1) Considered at the 369th and 921st meetings in 1978 and 1991 respectively (CERD/C/SR.369 and 921)
Gambia	Initial report (CERD/C/61/Add.3) Considered at the 550th and 921st meetings in 1982 and 1991 respectively (CERD/C/SR.369 and 921)
Côte d'Ivoire	2nd, 3rd and 4th periodic reports, consolidated in one document (CERD/C/64/Add.2) Considered at the 510th, 511th and 922nd meetings in 1981 and 1991 respectively (CERD/C/SR.510, 511 and 922)

7. Consideration of communications under article 14 of the Convention

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XVIII of its rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item communications which are or appear to be submitted to it under article 14 of the Convention.

In accordance with rule 88 of the rules of procedure, the meetings of the Committee during which communications under article 14 of the Convention are examined shall be closed.

8. Action by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session

(a) Annual report submitted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention

Following a request made by the Committee at its seventh session in 1973, this item is included yearly on the Committee's provisional agenda.

Pursuant to article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the annual report of the Committee, covering its activities during the forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions, was submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. The Committee will have before it the relevant summary records of the Third Committee and the relevant General Assembly resolution.

(b) Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

During the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, this item was considered by the Third Committee jointly with a number of other items. The Committee will have before it the relevant summary records of the Third Committee and the relevant General Assembly resolution.

Additionally, for its consideration of item 8 (a) and (b) of the provisional agenda, the Committee will have before it the following documents:

(a) Note of the Secretary-General transmitting to the General Assembly the report of the Sixth Meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies (A/50/505);

(b) Relevant summary records and reports of the Third Committee;

(c) Relevant General Assembly resolutions.

9. Submission of reports by States parties under article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention

At its forty-eighth session, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General concerning the status of submission of reports by States parties in accordance with article 9 of the Convention (CERD/C/302). Part A of that document indicates reports received from States parties and pending consideration by the Committee. Part B of the document contains information relating to overdue reports.

10. Consideration of copies of petitions, copies of reports and other information relating to Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories and to all other territories to which General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) applies, in conformity with article 15 of the Convention

Under this item, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General (CERD/C/301) concerning article 15 of the Convention and listing, as appropriate, copies of petitions, reports and working papers relating to the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

11. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

At its 695th meeting (thirtieth session) in August 1984, the Committee decided to keep this item on its agenda and requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the relevant activities which would be undertaken in accordance with the Programme of Action for the Third Decade.

Among the matters to be considered under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to discuss the relevant action taken by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session and follow-up to its joint meeting with the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance, held on 8 August 1995.

For its consideration of this item the Committee will have before it the following documents:

(a) The relevant General Assembly resolution on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

(b) Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance (A/50/476);

(c) Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/12 on measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(d) The report of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on its forty-seventh session (E/CN.4/1996/2)